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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,770	08/24/2001	Donald Gross	GRO-12525	2923
40854	7590	03/30/2004	EXAMINER	
RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP				BASTIANELLI, JOHN
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				ART UNIT
				PAPER NUMBER
				3754

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/938,770	
Examiner	John Bastianelli	
Art Unit	3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wafer et al.

US 5,404,615 in view of White, Jr. US 4,956,167 in view of Thompson US 4,103,868.

Wafer discloses a valve assembly (col. 2, lines 61-66) comprising a valve body having a rotary driven valve member (Abstract) and a valve stem, a valve handle 10 directly affixed to the valve stem 14 having a proximal end 16 and a distal end 18 with a longitudinal axis extending between the ends, the distal end having an opening 26 that is adapted to receive a drive head 16 of a handle 100 (Figs. 6-7). The method is seen as practiced by the apparatus. Wafer lacks the valve handle connected to the valve stem at a proximal end of the handle and the opening oriented generally transverse to a length direction of the handle. White discloses a ratchet handle 20 (col. 2, lines 29-35) having a proximal end 26, a distal end 25 with a square or hexagonal opening 27 (col. 2, lines 9-11) adapted to receive a ratchet handle 22 with the opening generally transverse to the length direction of the handle that is selectively repositionable to establish a desired angular relationship from zero to ninety degrees, between the ratchet handle and the valve handle. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the torque multiplier of White in place of the one of Wafer in order to provide more torque to the valve as the distance of the lever arm would be greater and to use a standard

“wrench set” as these are inexpensive and readily available. Wafer lacks a rotary valve member. Thompson discloses a rotary valve member 22. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the valve of Wafer be a rotary valve member as disclosed by Thompson as Wafer has stated that in col. 2, lines 61-65 “which is detachably connected with the valve stem and a shear pin assembly of a valve (not shown), as is well known in the art”, the rotary valve member of Thompson would provide the valve of Wafer with excellent valving operation and proper functioning

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed February 6, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Regarding applicant's arguments that there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the references in the manner as proposed by the examiner. Wafer discloses that valves are difficult to turn, thus proposes a multiplier set for mechanical advantage to make the valve turn easier. White discloses a multiplier set for mechanical advantage that compacts the size of the multiplier set while creating a greater mechanical advantage. The teaching of White is reason alone to modify as stated in the 103 rejection above. In regards to the different types of valves, the same movement of rotating a valve stem provides the same movement to raising a gate valve as turning a rotary valve member, thus it is seen as a reason to modify with any type of rotary valve member in which the examiner has provided Thompson, since the mode of actuating the valve is the same, thus the movement of the actual valve is seen as inconsequential and any type of valve may be used.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Bastianelli whose telephone number is (703) 305-0058. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene can be reached on (703) 308-2696. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John Bastianelli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754



JB
March 23, 2004